GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
ASSISTANCE FROM WORLD BANK FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECT
Jagannath Dr. M.;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has borrowed money from the World Bank for the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP);

(b) if so, the rate of interest on this borrowing, money spent during 1998-2003 showing separately the money spent on purchases, on foreign travels on building etc. under NATP;

(c) the outputs of the overall NATP project that could be readily used by the Indian farmers;

(d) whether NATP has recommended to help Indian Agricultural Research by making it more responsive to the technology needs at grassroots; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government borrowed from the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) credit of 64.10 million US dollars and International Bank for Rural Development loan of 78.80 million US dollars. For IDA credit, the commitment charges are one half percent of 1% credit per annum and service charges at the rate of 3/4 % per annum on principal amount of credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time; and on IBRD loan, the commitment charges are at the rate of 3/4 % of 1% per annum on principal amount of loan not withdrawn and interest on the principal amount of loan withdrawn and outstanding. The details of money spent during 1998-2003 under different heads are given in Annexure.

(c) The outputs of NATP include development of 270 new technologies which could be readily used by the Indian farmers.

(d) Yes, Sir. The NATP has recommended for sensitization agricultural research system to the farmer`s needs through participatory research activities.

(e) The farmer`s needs are taken into account at local, regional and national level. Farmers are represented at local level in Institute Management Committee and Research Advisory Committee of the ICAR institutes. At regional level the farmer`s needs are addressed in ICAR regional committee meetings which are attended by representative of line departments, State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes and farmer`s representatives. At national level the Governing Body of the ICAR and the ICAR Society are being represented by farmers where their needs are being taken into account.